

## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

## THE SHAME AND THE GLORY OF THE WAR.

From the N. Y. Herald.

"The judgment of the Almighty and of man," says King William of Prussia, "falls on him who forces into wars of devastation two great and peaceful races living in the very center of Europe." These are memorable words, which will bear frequent repetition. Whether they fully apply to the Emperor Napoleon III. of France or to the pretended statesman behind his throne, who insisted upon war and claimed that it alone could "crown the edifice" of imperial glory, matters little so far as the point and truth of the lesson are concerned. The invocation of Divine retribution and of human disapproval is just, wherever the answer to this solemn appeal may have already fallen or yet may fall. All who provoke or precipitate war, especially in the very midst of peaceful communities, are amenable to the one grand rule—they are conspirators against the happiness of humanity and rebels to the law of God.

Let us transfer ourselves for a moment to the extreme frontier of France, on the little river Saar, and close to the main line of operations selected by the French and Prussian armies. We will put the date at the 16th of July, or less than one brief month ago. We are at the inn door of the small town of Sarreguemines, looking out beyond the slender stream that separates us from Prussian soil. The Saar winds placidly between its low banks, and "deeply gracefully," says the French correspondent, whose eyes we borrow for the occasion, "behind a screen of poplars." On the other side is a neat little cottage home, with white curtains and yellow blinds at the windows, and in the tiny garden that slopes down to the river side a peasant saunters quietly, pipe in mouth, caressing his dog, who gambols beside him. Peeping over the green top of a gentle acclivity is the sharp spire of a small village church. Near by is a wide field of waving grain, and on the rustic road that descends to the edge of the Saar is a hay wagon, of quaint construction, drawn lazily by four sleek oxen. The driver, in a blouse and pantaloons of coarse linen, his brows screened with a straw hat, lazily swings his ox-goad and hums a country song of the Fatherland. Suddenly the scene is enlivened by a group of chubby, flaxen-haired children, who emerge from the cottage and clatter down the garden walk, the youngest clinging to the hand of an elder sister, herself not six years old. A grin Zouave who is near us on the French bank leans against the vine-covered door of the inn where we are standing, and indolently smiles as he looks out upon this pastoral little picture in an enemy's country. An enemy? Poor little home on the verdant slope on the farther bank—does it shelter enemies? And those humble peasants, all unconscious of the wrong that even now holds murder and ruin over their heads; those playful children, laughing in the sunshine, are they also to be the victims of the infernal orgie which madmen call "glorious war"? Even so. Behind your green meadows, and poplars, and waving grain-fields lie the gathering might of an indignant nation, while here are concentrating the martial terrors of an empire famous for its fearful energy in warfare. A few days more and all this peaceful scene will have disappeared; these banks will be stained with human blood; fire and havoc will have scattered forever that humble home and its helpless occupants—the peasant and his little ones—and all that makes the domestic groups at which we now gaze so charming, even in their unpretending humbleness, to the true heart.

Yet this is no mere fancy sketch. Such is an accurate portrayal, although feebly given, of just the scenes that were witnessed only the other day, along the streams and in the smiling valleys that unite, not separate, the "fair land of France" and thrifty, hard-working Rhenish Prussia and Bavaria. All who have travelled in that fine agricultural region will recall them, with a sigh of regret, as among the most pleasing of the pictures with which real experience or rural description may have stored their memories. When we reflect, then, that it is to this profound peace "in the very center of Europe" that thousands of humble and happy homes like this, to whole regions of cultivated country, that the horrible iniquity of sudden war is bringing "the blackness of darkness," with desolation, moaning and death; when to this we conjure up the vision of penury among the workmen and their families in the crowded towns; the vice and degradation that follow it; the bereaved and broken hearts; the widowhood and worse; the orphanage, the beggary, the open and ferocious crime—in fine, the endless miseries that are inevitably following close upon the march and counter-march of armies that massacre each other in the harvest fields and by the very hearthstones and in the shadow of church steeples which mark the abode of Europe's most dense and alas! most Christian population—what voice, could it be heard over the whole vast circuit of the universe, would be loud enough to denounce befittingly the shame and the horror of this outrage against God and man which rulers make who "batten like butchers" dogs upon the garbage of the shambles while the slaughter of the good and brave goes on around them?

But we may still fervently offer up heartfelt thanks that just in proportion to the fury of this riot of evil the better angel of humanity puts forth a stronger effort. The courage, the devotion, the self-sacrifice, the numberless exalted and manly traits that this stern alarm of war thrills into revived energy are partly a silver-lining to the cloud, dark and heavy as it is. If the flower of France and Germany be led away from home and kindred and the gentle works of peace, they go forth singing of God and Fatherland. The French soldier, chanting the noble words, "Mourir pour la patrie," is answered by the grand old hymn, "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott!" And the tears that either host might shed when the battle is over for their comrades slain are less bitter when the proud response to roll-call is heard along the line, "Dead on the field of honor!" for those whom the bugle can summon no more. Strange contradiction of our human nature that puts the sublimest of our inspirations to the patriot's use of ambition and places the heroes of our species as superserviceable tools in the hands of tyranny and intrigue. But there are other beautiful incidents that redeem some of the grosser horrors of war, and these are becoming, we are most glad to say, especially conspicuous in the present conflict. These have to do with that sweet charity which covereth a multitude of sins—the gallant consideration shown to prisoners taken on either side, the tender care of the sick and wounded, the timely and becoming

burial of the dead. As the captured French of Wissembourg passed through the German towns toward Berlin, the populace of all ages and classes came forth to offer them rest and bread and wine, and many a fierce Turco and Zouave wrung the hand of the poor Prussian peasant who saluted him with a kindly word and gave him a bite or sup, although twas in a "hostile" tongue and in the "enemy's" land. On the battle field of Werth, almost ere the smoke began to clear away, the white badges of the surgeons and nurses, authorized by the International Convention at Geneva, were seen moving about the heaps of dead and dying. But everywhere, all over Europe and America, the angelic hand of woman is stretched forth to aid and save. With them—mourning mothers, sisters, and wives, as thousands of them soon may be, or perchance are now, even while we write—there is no distinction of cause or nationality. The Empress Eugenie and the Queen of Prussia alike have hastened to the blessed work, and every day adds to the army of those who, amid all this frightful evil, go about doing good. With such manifestations of the boundless good that still exists, humanity may still believe that, as the darkest hour precedes the dawn, so will the very enormities of this most cruel, most needless, and, therefore, most wicked war, all this evil, this blood, this suffering, this dishonor, this degradation, this international murder, and usher in the auspicious hour when all this gallantry, all this genius, all this love of country, all this endurance, all this tenderness and charity, shall attain their loftiest development in arts and works which shall bear no stain of tears or blood, but shall be indeed the glory and not the shame of humanity.

## THE NOSE AND THUMB OF MR. FISK, JR.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

We have never thought that the position of the President of the U. S. A. was such a sweet boon as to be much desired by anybody with reasonable funds in his pocket, a roof over his head, and opportunities of usefulness in a private station. Looking back, it seems to us that the lives of the Presidents have not been what Mr. Cossey would call "comfortable." The great and good George Washington was so shattered that an experienced physician thought that he would be seriously disturbed. John Adams was turned out at the end of his first term, greatly to the wrath of that volcanically irascible gentleman. For eight years the Federalists stuck pins into Mr. Jefferson. Then Mr. Madison was treated in the same way. Only Mr. Monroe had a comparatively quiet time of it. How the younger Adams was maligned, and caricatured, and libelled, and finally ousted by General Jackson, we need not relate. His successor was always in hot water and always swearing and belching foam at Mr. Van Buren, until the fate of Mr. J. Q. Adams, General Harrison was hardly President at all. John Tyler made a miserable muddle and mess of it; ditto, Polk; ditto, Fillmore, after General Taylor had died in office; ditto, Pierce; ditto, Buchanan. Mr. Lincoln must have found, during his administration, cause for the greatest anxiety which could afflict and distract a public man. Over the scandal of Andy Johnson's Presidential life, let us, with many blushes, draw a veil. And now, General Grant has been so eminently unfortunate as to incur the personal wrath of James Fisk, Jr.

This we may well consider to be a climax and a crusher. What was the hostility of Jefferson to Washington and Adams, of Nicholas Biddle to General Jackson, of half a Senate to Van Buren, of all the Confederates to Mr. Lincoln, compared with the ferocity of the Monarch of Long Branch, as displayed when His Monetary Majesty, James the Pecuniary, dressed "in velvet and duck," and sitting in his chariot behind many horses, met poor General Grant at Long Branch, and said, to prove his degradation, "put his thumb to his nose?" This is what the correspondent of a Western paper says that the Junior Fisk did "to show his malignity." It was not enough that the Emperor of Steamboats should make the President pay his passage like any other man; it was not enough that he should have a whole regiment of retainers at his command, every beggar and blackguard of them all ready to cast contempt upon General Grant; but he must, this dreadful Fisk, put his thumb upon meeting General Grant, to his royal nose. One is anxious to know what kind of nose it is—be it a star of distinction, or delicately Grecian? does it turn up or droop? or is it the kind of nose known as the bottle-nose? But whatever its shape, its length, or shortness, whether it be aquiline or snub, it is, we suppose, a nose capable of being pulled, and quite likely to be pulled under all circumstances, though such violence we deprecate. General Jackson's nose was tweaked, and General Fisk's nose may be, though we hope not. It may be broken, put out of joint, ignominiously flattened, ungracefully turned from the centre upon which it is placed, to the right or to the left. It may be so disarranged that in attempting to follow it Mr. Fisk, Jr., may be unable to walk after a recitatorial fashion. It may be so damaged as to possess no longer the power of sniffing the breezes of Long Branch or of smelling a change on 'Change. We beg Mr. Fisk to be cautious of his nose. He may carry his thumb to it once too often. Others may not exhibit the self-command of General Grant, and Mr. Fisk, without any nose at all, would be a spectacle for the pitiful gods and for weeping men.

Moreover, we wish that King Fisk, Jr., would be a little less haughty, for greater monarchs than he have "fallen, fallen, fallen" from their high estate; other sovereigns have come to beg in the street like Belshazzar; King Midas, who was richer than King James the First of Long Branch, by his audacity, got a pair of asses' ears which were not ornamental; and the majestic Midas was in the gold business himself. At present, the greatness of Mr. Fisk, Jr., is unquestionable; his name is a household word in the mouth of the land; he has thousands of paragraphs about his horses and himself, his clothes, and his domestic arrangements, in all the newspapers; but does he remember Cardinal Wolsey's rather lugubrious confession of the precarious nature of prosperity?

"Farewell, a long farewell, to all my greatness!" This is the state of man: to-day he puts forth the tender leaves of hope; to-morrow blossoms, and bears his blushing honors thick upon him;

The third day comes a frost, a killing frost; And—when he thinks, good easy man, full surely His greatness is a ripening—nips his root And then he falls, as Fisk may.

—Prudence, moderation, modesty, good manners, Mr. Fisk, Jr., and above all, don't carry your thumb too often to your nose.

## THE NAVAL SIDE OF THE WAR.

From the London Spectator.

The French have forty-five ironclads afloat, and the Prussians six. Such is the essence of many statements about the maritime preponderance of France over Prussia. Appa-

rently nothing more should be needed to show that France may work her will at sea and on the coast of North Germany, confining the German fleet to its harbors, attacking the coast fortifications, and landing hostile expeditions at any suitable points that may be found. And, in fact, most magnificent naval projects are attributed to France. Large Prussian forces are to be kept occupied by harassing coast attacks; a French army is to be landed in the Baltic and march on Berlin, while the Prussian legions on the Rhine are vainly trying to arrest the onset of the main army of France. From the first outbreak of the war such has been the common report of the daily papers, and it finds a good deal of credence, the French assumption of superiority imposing itself even more in naval matters than it did at first with respect to the campaign on land. But we confess we are disposed to receive with some skepticism the accounts of what the French will achieve in this war at sea. Granting that the German fleet will be shut up in its ports, it does not follow that the French navy can inflict any vital injury on Prussia.

The coast of the North-German Confederation to the North Sea is, we believe, almost too difficult for practical approach, and all accounts agree that the French will prefer to operate in the Baltic. Now, our own experience in the Crimean war might have shown that fleets can be sent to the Baltic without hurting an enemy much. That sea is not a comfortable one for hostile occupation, nor are its coasts easily accessible. No doubt the coast against which the French are now fighting is not the antagonist of 1855, but the Baltic coast of Prussia is not much more inviting than that of its northern neighbor, and its great harbors and coast fortresses—Kiel, Stralsund, and Danzig—will be as strongly fortified, and likely to show some fight before they are occupied. The idle promenade of a French fleet in the Baltic is quite conceivable, assuming that it has nothing whatever to apprehend from a hostile fleet; but "harassing coast attacks," and the reduction of coast fortresses, however much they may be indulged in, would in no respect be vital in a war like the present. What need Germany care, if she neglects them all and manages to win on the Rhine? Such attacks could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the line of the Rhine once gained all Germany is open to the French. Again, if anything more than a coast attack is ventured on, if a serious invasion of Germany is contemplated, then the task is itself so formidable, even if wholly opposed by the French, that it is not to be undertaken by the Prussians, who could be made serious after Prussia was completely worn on the Rhine—if one army after another was put *hors de combat*, and the defeated wrecks were vainly opposing a grand French advance to Berlin; but in such a case they would hardly be needed to put a finishing stroke to the campaign, for the